[1874, Oct.]

Report

of Church Work in the Island of Cuba —

Right Rev. Fathers in God: —

In as few words as possible I wish to give some account of the Cuban Church Work which you authorized and appointed during the Month of October 1871. —

Soon after the adjournment of the General Convention of 1871 difficulties arose in regard to the Work which threatened to put a stop to it altogether. — These difficulties grew out of a correspondence between our Government and the Authorities of Cuba — And when I consulted with the Hon. Secretary of State he advised the abandonment

ment
of the work on the ground of its being
an extremely hazardous undertaking. These
difficulties are well known to the Bishops
of Maryland - New York and Minnesota -
and to Mr. William Welch of Philadelphia -
and it is unnecessary for me to comment
upon them now - except to say that after
consultation with my own Diocesan the
Bishop of Maryland - he advised me
to take my letter of instructions - sail
for Cuba - and endeavor to do that which
had been committed to me. - I left
New York on the 23" of November
and when I reached Havana was advised
by our Consul General - and others to
return home - as nothing could be done -
the advice was well meant - but I was
unwilling to take it - I sought opportunity
to fulfil the trust which the Church
had

committed to me — God helping me I am
now with thanksgiving to Him who hath
done it all — I am able to report that
our Church work is established on the
island of Cuba — Prior to the time when
the Bishop of Minnesota visited Cuba —
English — German — Scotch and American
protestants on the island were deprived
of all religious ministrations and it was a
punishable offence for any Clergyman or
Minister — other of the Romish persuasion
to hold a service — either publicly or privately —
for these people — Five years prior to
the Bishop's visit — burial was refused
to the protestant dead — and the sick and
the dying were cut off from all consola-
tion — except such as might be given
by a corrupt Ministry — And the fact
that thousands and thousands of our own
people

people have reckoned and so in this way God calls upon us to provide some permanent remedy for the future.

This state of things has existed so long that the majority of our own people have lost all faith in Christianity and their children are growing up in the same path of unbelief and infidelity. — There are now two thousand (2000) Registered Americans on the Island about the same number of Germans and a large English population. — There has become almost entirely Alienated from Christianity and Christian habits. And as they are living Amongst a people probably the most Corrupt in every particular in the face of this our Globe to-day — one cannot wonder at

in their Course - especially when we
consider that we are here sent
to teach them - and by Christian living
to convince them of the law of Christ
which passeth knowledge — I here
know Concubinage - and the worst
kind of Evil living Amongst them - in
Illustrate of Course the law of Marriage
is entirely disregarded — I am now
speaking of the Religious states of
foreigners - I speak of these alone -
I think only of necessity this great
Evil first - because once having
removed such an Evil - we shall have
a sufficient Christian force to
uproot the rest of the Corruption
of which it is not wise for me
now - even to speak. — I found that
many of the Children of our own
people

people has been baptized in the Romish faith - and many - many more have unbaptized - and their parents indifferent about the matter - I am baptizing and Ministering amongst these people as fast as I can find them out - but I am all alone and so it is necessarily slow work. — During the first year of our work on this island I held our services in the harbor of Havana under the shade of one of our largest Monitors - We had large Congregations and many Communicants - hearty Responses and good Church Music. — I next sought refuge on shore at the United States Consulate and having crept along thus far - I next held our services in a large Saloon in the heart of the city and have

have continued this work for nearly two years - the Number of Communicants ah Havana varies - fom 30 to 60. —

During the second year of our work on the island I opened a Mission ah the City of Matanzas - 62 Miles from Havana. During that year I held Evening Service there Every Sunday - but I have been Compelled of late to limit my work there to Every other Sunday. — I need a Clergyman for this place and also for a Mission which I have organized ah the City of Cardenas - 120 Miles from Havana - During the last year. —

I Wish Now to lay Some Stress upon the Work Amongst the Sick, the Dying and the Dead - Hundreds of Protestant people die ah Havana and

And ab the Other Reasons every year of Yellow Fever. Through the Courtesy of the Political Governor I have become the Charge of one of the Marine Hospitals on the Island and in this Institution I have been able to care for the sick and the dying and to bury the dead. When I Commenced our Work in this Institution our dead were buried like beasts without Coffins. And frequently the Clothes were torn from the bodies and Naked and without a word of Sympathy or a Prayer our dead were consigned to a pit or trench — We Now have a Plot of Ground outside of the city where the dead are buried decently in Coffins. This is a Work which must be Cared for and the Sick that are

we are endeavoring to do it - and are
confronted and conquering the ideas of
the past - gives greater strength to the cause
of Christianity in the Island of Cuba than
all the sermons that might be preached -
During the last two years I have made
nearly 4000 visits to the sick and the
dying and during the sickly season our
burial office has been read, on an average,
almost daily - in the institution. I did my
best last year to procure a Chaplain for
the hospital but failed to secure the money to
pay for such assistance. — During the months of
February last I organized a Sunday School at the
City of Havana - It contains 22 scholars and
I teach it myself - I hope to make it the
foundation of a day school for boys and
girls - I have already formed from it a

Mallory de Cuba presented himself to the Bishop of Long Island to be educated for this work — He is now pursuing his preparatory studies in New York City, under my direction.

Submit with this report the reports of our treasurer — Mr. Benjamin E. Lawton for the years 1871-72 - 1873 & 1874 — and the Annual Account of the trustees in the United States — Messrs. S. & H. Yelch of Philadelphia — These papers explain themselves — Since the 1st of October 1872 I have had to pay all of the money for carrying on this Work and now as I write this report I know not when the funds are coming from to pay expenses during the coming year. — I need at this hard time present men to assist me — I need this money to support them and

due for my own support - In the present financial Embarrassment in Cuba - I am able to secure but little - Comparatively speaking - there - During the first part of last year Spanish bank bills were at 130 per cent discount - And even when we are able to secure this money for Christ's Work its real value amounts to almost Nothing - The Consul General of the German Empire resident at Havana - has issued a Circular calling upon his Countrymen to aid our work. And suggests that steps be taken at once to obtain permission for the building of a Chapel at Havana. The Consule General of Great Britain And the United States at this and Ruggs

this plan - our to place our work
upon such a sure foundation as may
insure for it the confidence and
support of American Churchmen -
and the sympathy and support of
the Church throughout the World. -

I would here add that the
Bishop of London is now working
in our behalf - Our work has been
published at Liverpool - England -
and I have already received
many words of sympathy from
the Rector of St Paul's Church
Liverpool and a Prelate

Respectfully submitted

E. Hart Kenney
in Charge of Church work
on the Island of Cuba

To the—
Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Maryland
" " " " " New York
" " " " " Long Island
" " " " " Pennsylvania
" " " " " Massachusetts

} Committee of the House of Bishops.—

New York City
October 1874